

## REPORT OF APPLACHIAN MOUNTAIN TEEN PROJECT

Since 1990 we have had the pleasure of working closely with Alton families and the school district. Funding from the Town of Alton directly supports teens and families from Alton who participate in our projects.

Currently, 14 Alton teens are active in our Activity-based Mentoring program. In 2008 we began a new project to increase access to and success in college for young people who face barriers to higher education.

The Appalachian Mountain Teen Project (AMTP) was incorporated in 1987 to provide support and expand opportunities for youth and families who struggle with economic, social, and emotional challenges. Our goal is to foster resilience and engagement in youth that are struggling so that they may attain academic, social, psychological, and job-related success.

We help teens develop five critical assets:

- Meaningful, participatory connection to the school and town community
- Hope for the future with access to options for educational and career goals
- Safe and mutually respectful relationships with responsible adults
- Healthy, fun and recreational opportunities with family and peer group
- Positive, competent, and prepared attitude toward school and employment

Each year the school guidance counselor, teachers, and/or parents refer 3-4 middle school students to AMTP. They are involved for a minimum of one year and often continue to be involved all through high school. During that time they build stable, trusting, long-term mentoring relationships with AMTP staff. Mentors meet weekly with each participant for a full school year. Participants go on wilderness adventure trips, visit 2 and 4-year colleges, and complete community service projects that help them develop a sense of community affiliation and responsibility.

Since 1990 we have:

- Provided 44 Alton youth with school-based support, long-term mentoring, outdoor adventure trips up to 10 days long, and community service (i.e., planting flowers at the Pearson Rd. community building, doing clean-up projects in Alton Bay, and helping with the current effort to revitalize the site of the old railway station)
- Worked with 12 youth in the middle school alternative program offering monthly adventure outings
- Offered youth adventure programs in conjunction with counselors from Genesis
- Offered four courses for Alton parents
- Teamed with the Health Educator for 3 years to provide life skills and civic education to students in grades 5-8
- Taught the character education curriculum, *Voices of Love and Freedom* to 6<sup>th</sup> graders
- Conducted home visits, crisis intervention, and provided referral information to parents

For more information about AMTP, please visit [www.teenprojectnh.com](http://www.teenprojectnh.com) or call us at 569-5510.

Thank you, Alton, for your support!  
Dan Kusch, Executive Director